

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FRB-01

OMB-01 /049 W

----- 104159

R 221700Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS KINGSTON 314

NYXEO 11652: N/A

TAGS ECRP, EAGR, RPAP, JM

SUBJECT: CERP 0002: CUBAN EXPERTS ESTIMATE \$18.5 MILLION

RICE POTENTIAL IN JAMAICA

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

REF: KINGSTON A 2, JAN 8

1. JANUARY 21 PRESS ARTICLES HIGHLIGHTED TWO-WEEK VISIT BY CUBAN EXPERTS WHO WERE INVITED BY GOJ'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO STUDY JAMAICAN RICE INDUSTRY. ON JANUARY 19, CUBAN TEAM SUBMITTED DETAILED REPORT TO ADC AFTER INTENSIVE SURVEY 18,000 ACRES OF JAMAICAN RICELANDS. FINDINGS AS FOLLOWS:

A) 14,000 ACRES IN UPPER MORASS CAN FORM NUCLEUS JAMAICAN RICE INDUSTRY WITH POTENTIAL OF J\$18.5 MILLION PER YEAR AND "PROPEL THE NATION TO MATCH ITS OVERSEAS CGDP PETITORS". 30,000 ACRES POTENTIAL RICE LAND HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED OF WHICH 80 PERCENT WAS CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR RICE GROWING ONLY. MAJORITY OF THIS ACREAGE WILL SUPPORT TWO CROPS PER YEAR. THEREFORE WITH AVERAGE 1.6 CROPS/YEAR AND MINIMUM YIELD 1.2 TONS/ACRE, ANNUAL YIELD ABOUT 58,000 TONS OF WET PADDY OR

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30,500 TONS POLISHED RICE PER YEAR COULD BE EXPECTED. AT

PRESENT PRICES, A DEVELOPED JAMIANCA RICE INDUSTRY USING
30,000 ACRES WOULD HAVE VALUE OF J\$17 MILLION POLISHED RICE;
J\$1 1/2 MILLION IN BY-PRODUCT FOR ANIMAL FEED USE: AND
J\$1 MILLION IN BROKEN RICE FOR USE IN BEER PRPDUTION

B) ESTIMATED GROSS POTENTIAL JAMAICAN RICE INDUSTRY WAS
85,000 ACRES

C) VIABLE RICE INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA MUST USE LARGE TRACTS AS
EXISTS IN UPPER MORASS RATHER THAN "LITTLE POCKETS OF FARMLAND"
AS BASIC UNITS. UPPER MORASS REGION OFFERS LEVEL LAND, ABUNDANT
WATER AND TEMPERATURES VERY CLOSE TO OPTIMUM FOR RICE
PRODUCTION

D) RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. LANDS SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO RICE CULITIVATION
MUST BE DEFINED

2. NECESSARY DEVELOP IRRIGATION/WATER CONTROL AND BODY
OF TECHNICIANS IN UPPER MORASS SPECIALIZED IN CULTIVATION,
WEED/DISEASE CONTRL AND MECHANIZATION

3. ADC SHOULD DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS ROADS AND
AIRSTRIP FOR FERTILIZER PLANES.

4. CUBANS CONSIDERED ADC FARM AT AMITY HALL TO BE
IDEAL FACILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SEED RICE PRODUCTION
FOR WHOLE ISLAND AND RECOMMENDED ITS PRESENT RICE GROWING
ACREAGE BE INCREASED TO 2,000 ACRES. SEED CERTIFICATION SHOULD
BE VITAL PART OF PROGRAM, SINCE POOR SEED COULD REDUCE YIELD
BY 40 PERCENT AND "COMPROMISE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY".

2. ARTICLES NOTED THAT CUBAN RICE FIELDS PRODUCED
130,000 TONS WHITE RICE IN 1974-5.

3. MEMBERS CUBAN TEAM WERE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE
NATIONAL DIRECTION OF RICE INRA (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE)
IN CUBA, SENOR LUCAS COLOM ALEMANY; DIRECTOR OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SEED RICE PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION,
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SENOR GOGRE HORSFORD LUNDEM: AND CUBAN DIRECTOR OF PEST CON-
TROL AND RICE PLANT PROTECTION, SNEOR ALFREDO GUTIERREZ YANIS.

COMMENT: CUBAN VISIT UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE AT ADC
ATTACHES TO JAMAICA'S DESIRE TO BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT
IN RICE PRODUCTION. GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, CERP 0002, STUDIES, PRODUCTION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST00314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-1087
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabbxa.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0002: CUBAN EXPERTS ESTIMATE \$18.5 MILLION RICE POTENTIAL IN JAMAICA
TAGS: ECRP, EAGR, EPAP, JM, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006